

**STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY,  
INDUSTRY, + DONORS**

Volume LXVII No. 1  
**SPRING 2025**



# The Dandy Scroll

# Paper Days 2025

We celebrated our 75th anniversary on April 1st and 2nd with over 350 UMP PF students, faculty, and industry leaders.

## Student Panel

Highlights of the Paper Days program always include hearing from our students, and this year's student panel offered a chance for attendees to hear about their co-op project experiences. The panel was moderated by **Elaina Stefanick, Early Talent Program Ambassador for PCA and '19 CHE**. Panelists included current students who have completed co-ops and internships in the industry. From the Class of 2025, Chemical Engineering students **Matthew Albert, Makenzie Alley, Justin Pelletier**, and **Sydney Roy**, and Mechanical Engineering student **Nathan Newgard**



described their projects as well as the employers they will be starting their careers with after they graduate in May. **Collin Scobie** represented the Electrical Engineering Class of 2026. These students gave thoughtful presentations on their projects and demonstrated to the audience how value-added their work was to their employers. In addition, they highlighted the most important lessons they learned that they can now apply moving forward in their careers! The most common takeaway for the students was how critical it is to effectively communicate with others and to spend time with the operators who work on the equipment every day to learn from them.



**Left:** Barbara Hamilton, Sr. Director, Process Technology, PCA; **Middle:** UMP PF's president, Carrie Enos; **Above:** Student Panel Participants Makenize Alley '25 CHE, Nathan Newgard '25 MEE, and Justin Pelletier '25 CHE.



## Northeast PIMA/TAPPI Breakout Sessions:

For the second year we offered more interactive programming to highlight the great networking opportunities that Paper Days offers each year.

NE PIMA/TAPPI offered Hot Topics for Young Professionals. **Lena Decker of PCA and Chair of TAPPI's YP Division** kicked the session off utilizing the analogy of a tree to represent one's career: all the way from sowing the seeds to the fruit that the tree bears in the end.

The audience was then split into six groups and participated in 15-minute rotating roundtable discussions facilitated by industry leaders:

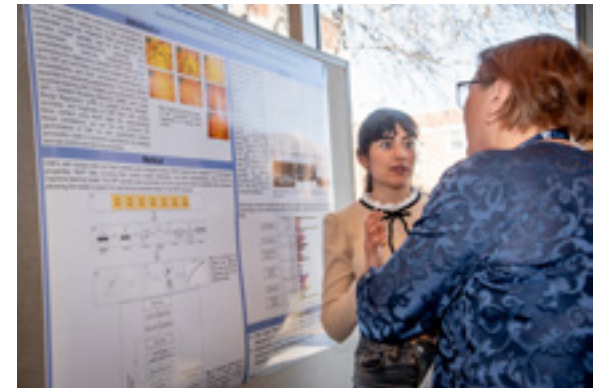
- **Eve Parent, Cianbro** on Starting a Family and Working in Industry
- **Josh Peterson, Monadnock Paper Mills** on Handling Professional Conflicts
- **Lena Decker, PCA** on Navigating Communication Methods Between Different Generations
- **Matt Haws, Stantec** on How to Retain Young Talent
- **McKenna Baker, UMPFF** on What Does PIMA/TAPPI Offer to Help with Career Development?
- **Ian Hamilton, BASF** on How to Take Ownership Over Your Career

## Luncheon Speaker:

**Dr. Juergen Abraham, President of Division Products and Service at Voith**, traveled from Heidenheim, Germany to illustrate Voith's vision of the Autonomous Mill. He reinforced for the students that as mills become more automated and highly technical, there will be a need for additional engineers to interface with the technology and ensure that things run smoothly.

The audience was then split into six groups and participated in 15-minute rotating roundtable discussions facilitated by industry leaders:

- **Dana Cook**, VP of Mill Operations at **PCA** on Leadership
- **Dr Lois Forde-Kohler**, Family Care Sustainability Director at **Procter & Gamble** on Sustainability
- **Dr Fritz Paulsen**, Senior Director of R&D at **Smurfit WestRock** on Ethics
- **Emma White**, Process Data Consultant at **Braincube** on AI and Technology
- **Chad Martin**, VP of Marketing at **Asten Johnson** on Networking
- **Julie White**, Senior Director of Process Safety Excellence at **Georgia-Pacific** on Safety



**Right, top to bottom:** Graduate Student presenting research to Julie White, Sr. Director, Process Safety at Georgia-Pacific LLC; Lena Decker, Packaging Sales Representative at PCA, introducing the NE PIMA/TAPPI Hot Topics session; Dr. Juergen Abraham, President P&S and DBO at Voith, delivering the luncheon address

## Keynote Address



**Andy Silvernail, Chief Executive Officer of International Paper,** was our keynote speaker at the Honors Banquet. Andy is a native of Bucksport, Maine, and he recorded an inspiring message about how the UMPFF is in the intersection of three things he holds dear: the state of Maine, education, and the

forest products industry. He spoke about his history with the paper industry, how much he values the mentoring and scholarship support provided by the UMPFF, and how important sustainability is moving forward. He congratulated our students on choosing to pursue engineering at UMaine through the UMPFF and expressed that he looks forward to joining us at future events.



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**At right:** **1.** Justin Pelletier, '25 CHE; Beth Cormier, Executive Consultant, Sappi North America; **2.** Elaina Stefanick, Early Talent Program Ambassador II, PCA; **3.** Scott Sleeper, Account Manager, Kemira; **4.** Mark Cross, President, Naxos Consulting/FocusCFO and Jeff Cross, Regional Sales Manager, WebTech; **5.** Dana Cook, Vice President Mill Operations, PCA; **6.** Sydney Roy, '25 CHE and Matt Albert, '25 CHE; **7.** Paul Durocher, Principal, Impack Consulting LLC; **8.** Eve Parent, Contracts Manager, Cianbro; **9.** Rachel McMannus, Production Engineer, Twin Rivers, Julia Muth, Manufacturing Engineer MCP, Huhtamaki, and Kylie Carrier, '25 CIE; **10.** Keith Meyer, Principal, KAM Consulting; **11.** Monique Claverie, Sr Manager, Technical Marketing & Services, N.A., UPM Pulp; **12.** UMaine Grad Student Research Poster Session; **13.** Makenzie Alley, '25 CHE; **14.** Jonathan Haling, Vice President, Business Development, Phase Two Chemicals; Mark Lenentine, Business Development, N.A., WSI-Water; **15.** Jessica Vigneault, Operations Manager, TimberHP and Scott Frasca, Director of Sales - CASE & Nonwovens, MiniFIBERS, Inc.; **16.** Lu Athnos, Regional Sales Manager, ABB, Inc.



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# Smart Engineering for a Sustainable World

**As we look toward the future of the pulp and paper industry—and the role our students will play in it—we're proud to unveil a new tagline that captures both our mission and our momentum:**

## **Smart Engineering for a Sustainable World.**

This simple but powerful statement reflects what we've always known to be true: the UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation supports some of the brightest, most capable engineering students in the country. These students are not only shaping their own futures but leading the pulp and paper industry forward with innovation, efficiency, and a commitment to a greener, more resilient world.

To our alumni and donors, thank you. This tagline is not just about our students—it's about the legacy you've helped build and the future you continue to support.



# UMPPF RECOGNIZES **BOYNTON + BURGESS** WITH THE **2025 Teacher of the Year Award**



**UMPPF recognizes two teachers annually with Teacher of the Year awards for their excellence in inspiring and challenging their students.** Each year, current scholarship recipients are asked to nominate a past teacher who made a difference in their lives, submitting a one-page narrative describing their appreciation for the that teacher’s support and pedagogical approach. The Teacher of the Year award is an expression of the high esteem in which the teachers are held by this Foundation, and by former students who have been motivated to succeed in their studies as a result of their teachers’ devotion.

**Above:** Tony Ouellette, Director, Customer Solutions, Sappi North America and UMPPF Scholarship Committee Chair; Jacob Levesque, '26 CHE, Scott Burgess, Georgianna Borg, '27 ELE, Joshua Igwe, '28 CHE, and Evan Donnell, '28 CHE; **Middle:** John Boynton, engineering teacher at Bucksport High School; **Right:** Scott Burgess, science teacher at John Bapst Memorial High School

## **JOHN BOYNTON**

Mr. Boynton was nominated by first-year Chemical Engineering student Evan Donnell. Mr. Boynton was Evan’s soccer coach, Robotics team coach, and math and engineering teacher at Bucksport High School. In his recommendation letter, Evan wrote that Mr. Boynton the soccer coach was “a huge reason as to why I had opportunities to play soccer at the next level. Ironically, John Boynton, the teacher, is the reason why I didn’t.”

Evan notes on the Robotics team, “the environment was laid back but hardworking, where everyone was allowed to do what they were skilled at or passionate about... Seeing the coordination of so many people, doing the things that they wanted in order to reach the common goal of everyone else, is the exact reason why I am an aspiring engineer today.” He also believes that “every year more students join the robotics team and are graduating from Bucksport attempting to receive further education in engineering fields. Many of these students have received the Pulp and Paper Foundation Scholarship, and many more will apply because of this program.” Thank you, John!





## SCOTT BURGESS

Junior Chemical Engineering Student Jacob Levesque nominated science teacher Scott Burgess of John Bapst Memorial High School who encouraged him to attend Consider Engineering and apply for the UMPPF Scholarship. Jacob said, “His passion for teaching, commitment to STEM education, and willingness to go above and beyond for his students make him a truly exceptional educator and mentor.”

Jacob wrote that Mr. Burgess has an “engaging teaching style and commitment to student success [that] helped me develop a strong foundation in physics and critical thinking—skills that have been invaluable in my pursuit of a chemical engineering degree.” Mr. Burgess also encouraged Jacob to apply for Consider Engineering, which he says “introduced me to chemical engineering as a major and provided me with insight into the dynamic career opportunities available in the pulp and paper industry. Without Mr. Burgess’s guidance, I may not have discovered this path that has since become my passion.” Thank you, Scott!

## Student **Recognitions** and **Awards**

Congratulations to **Jacob Levesque**, recipient of the **2024-2025 Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Scholarship from TAPPI**. Jacob is a third-year chemical engineering student with a mathematics minor and a concentration in pulp & paper management. He interned as a first year student at the Sappi Somerset Mill as a Pulp Lab Technician, developing technical and engineering skills. He is now completing his second term of co-op at Packaging Corporation of America’s Filer, MI mill.

**Cole Guimond, '26 CHE**, was awarded a scholarship from **TAPPI’s Couch Pit University** for students at universities or colleges which support a degree program leading toward a career in the pulp and paper industry.

**Silvia Davids, '26 CIE**, and **Alex Richard, '27 MEE**, won \$500 scholarships raffled off by **Northeast PIMA/TAPPI** at Paper Days. They are pictured with **Addie Nadeau, '96 CIE**, of Northeast PIMA/TAPPI and the UMPPF Executive Committee.

**Below, L to R:** Jacob Levesque; Cole Guimond; Silvia Davids and Alex Richard with Addie Nadeau (middle)



# 2025 Genco Award

PRESENTED TO **DR. CAITLIN HOWELL**



**The Joseph M. Genco Award was created by the UMPPF to recognize a UMaine employee who has demonstrated exemplary support** of the Pulp and Paper Industry through either outstanding research that has the potential to significantly improve the industry, and/or through innovative student recruitment to help provide the next generation of engineers to our industry, and/or through innovative teaching that inspires current engineering students.

This year's Genco Award winner graduated from UMaine with a BS in Biology and Math minor followed by a MS in Biology. She received a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Heidelberg

University in Germany and was a Postdoctoral Technology Development Fellow at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering before joining the faculty at UMaine in 2016.

She now operates the Howell Biointerface and Biomimetics Lab and is a tenured Professor of Biomedical Engineering at UMaine.

Traditionally, our member institutions are generally most interested in work by chemical engineers and chemists. However, Dr. Howell demonstrated a unique ability to break down complex research for both technical and general audiences, a desire to work with industry to identify and access new markets with products that make a difference, and a capacity to develop new projects within the biomedical field that make use of paper resources and industry expertise. This was instrumental in our decision to provide her with annual stipends from the UMPPF since 2018.

Her research topics range from 3D printing microfluidic molds for mass-production on papermaking equipment, to cellulose nanofibrils to prevent growth of microorganisms, and everything in between. Her 3D printing research resulted in a partnership with one of our member companies that grew into a shared research grant from the Maine Technology Institute as well as a partnership with the Wyss Institute and Harvard Medical School. This impressive use of resources is what UMaine is in search of – expanding our reputation in the academic community by playing to our historic strengths, such as the paper industry, while also procuring precious research dollars to support our faculty, grad students, and research.

She has published extensively, has been an invited speaker domestically and abroad, and is a dedicated teacher and mentor for Ph.D., Master's, and undergraduate students. She actively volunteers to serve on campus and in the community with student recruitment and outreach activities.

For all these reasons, we find Dr. Caitlin Howell deserving of the Joseph M. Genco Award.

**Above:** Dr. Lois Forde-Kohler, Family Care Sustainability Director, P&G and UMPPF University and Industrial Support Committee Chair presenting Dr. Caitlin Howell with the Genco Award

# UMPPF Honor Award

PRESENTED TO **BETH CORMIER**

**The UMPPF Honor Award is an expression of our sincere appreciation to leaders of our Foundation and industry** who have gone “above and beyond” in support of our vision, for helping to attract the best and brightest to the University of Maine and, in doing so, provide the footprint for the next generation of leaders.

The 2025 recipient is Beth Cormier, recently retired VP of R&D and Sustainability at Sappi North America. She has been a part of the fabric of our Foundation for many years including her latest position as Board Chair, but her journey and support for our industry and Foundation, as well as her mentorship, are worthy of note.



The daughter of a high school principal and a hard-working Mom in Aroostook County, Beth enjoyed math and science, along with any athletic endeavor, at a young age. After high school she started at UMaine as a Geology major, while playing Division 1 basketball and softball, but then decided to change majors to Engineering Physics. This led to an 8-month co-op at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

With an interest in research, and with SD Warren Company (now Sappi) looking specifically for Engineering Physics majors, Beth took the plunge and began developing her impressive industry resume, moving into roles of

increasing responsibility through R&D, manufacturing, and marketing. Along the way she earned her MBA from Boston University and eventually became a member of Sappi’s executive management team, leading Sappi’s

corporate efforts on sustainability, continuous improvement / Lean Six Sigma, and advanced analytics for new paper and packaging products as well investigating opportunities for cellulose utilization in new markets.

Beth recently retired after 38 years with Sappi. With the UMPPF, she became our Secretary, Chair of the Executive Committee, and finally Board Chair.

Outside of the Foundation, but in keeping with the tenants of the Honor Award in supporting our industry, Beth is a recently honored TAPPI fellow. She is involved in the Women in Industry Executive Committee also serves on the International Research Management Committee. With industry advocacy a priority, Beth also worked with TAPPI and the Girl Scouts to expand a paper science STEM program to educate youth on our industry and career opportunities and continues to help by arranging visits to elementary and middle schools to help introduce them to “all things trees.”

**Above:** Keith Meyer, Principal, KAM Consulting and UMPPF Honor Award Committee Chair presenting Beth Cormier with the Honor Award

# Scholarship Presentations

**At right:** The Cook, Cross, and Jinks families are presented their plaques.

## AT PAPER DAYS 2025

**Seven funds reached the \$10,000 mark and were introduced as Named Scholarships at Paper Days 2025.**

### Named Scholarship Funds reaching the \$10,000 mark:

**The Marsh Family Scholarship Fund** was established by Shawn and Kelly Marsh in 2024 to support University of Maine students just as Shawn was supported with a Pulp and Paper Scholarship while earning his undergraduate degree at UMaine. Shawn is a 1987 UMaine graduate with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked for several years in New England supporting specialty paper plants in steam and power engineering. Shawn earned his Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and an executive MBA at the University of New Hampshire. Since 1997, Shawn has worked in various engineering, production supervision, and safety leadership roles at Evonik, a German owned global specialty chemical company. He has great respect for UMaine engineering programs and feels his undergraduate experience prepared him well for his whole career, including his current Vice President role at Evonik.

Shawn and Kelly remain grateful to the foundation for the financial support and networking opportunities provided during Shawn's time at UMaine and are pleased to establish this scholarship fund to help minimize the financial burden to future engineering students as they pursue their education.

**The Cook Family Scholarship Fund** was established by Dana and Samantha Cook. Dana, '01 CHE, says that his deep connection to the industry stems from his family's long-standing history of work in paper manufacturing, including both his parents and his stepfather, as well as grandfather and many uncles and cousins. Dana often credits the paper industry for providing nearly every meal he has ever had, underscoring his gratitude and commitment to the industry.

Dana's career began at the Androscoggin, ME Mill, and he also worked at mills in Catawba, SC, Riegelwood, NC, and Augusta, GA. In 2014, he joined Packaging Corporation of America (PCA), where he currently serves as Vice President of Mill Operations.

Dana and Samantha reside in Charlotte, NC, with their four children (whom they're still trying to convince to follow in Dana's footsteps.) Samantha works in healthcare communications for a nonprofit health system.





They deeply appreciate the efforts of the University of Maine Pulp & Paper Foundation in promoting careers within the paper industry, and it is great pleasure that they establish this scholarship fund to help nurture the next generation of leaders. They are passionate about supporting future engineering students and helping to alleviate their financial burdens as they pursue their educational goals.

**The Dr. Therese and Jeff Cross** was established by them in 2025. Jeff graduated from the University of Maine in 1981 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. He worked for Union Camp Corporation, Gilman Paper Company, Simpson Paper company and Crown Vantage Paper Company in various technical and quality roles. He then held sales and/or ownership roles with Nordic Paper Company, Maxcess International and WebTech.

Dr. Therese Cross graduated with a degree in Psychology from the University of Missouri before earning a Doctorate in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis. In addition to counseling clinical patients, Dr. Cross advised companies in the hiring, promoting and managing of employees. She tested thousands of individuals within the United States as well as other countries. She helped ensure a good fit between person and career.

Jeff probably should have met Dr. Cross sooner, both because she is the love of his life but also because working in a mill was not his passion. Working in a mill may be great for you and it may be your passion, or some other aspect of the pulp and paper industry might be best for you, or an entirely different career path. Do what is best for you is the message of this scholarship.

And that is why Dr. Therese's name appears first. Jeff graduated from Maine and was a Pulp and Paper Scholarship recipient, but according to him this is more about her.

**The William & Mary Jinks Scholarship Fund** was established by Patricia "Patti" Jinks in honor of her parents, William "Bill" and Mary Jinks. Patti, '91 MET, was born and raised in Bangor on a large dairy farm and now lives in Nashville, TN.

Bill and Mary Jinks valued education, and their lifelong love of learning, determination to live their best lives, willingness to work hard despite adversity, and sheer grit enabled them to prosper beyond their wildest dreams in their agricultural businesses for seventy years.

Bill's ties to the pulp and paper industry in Maine ran deep. He was born in a logging

camp in Portage Lake, Maine and his father was a logger and river driver for Great Northern Paper and then worked in Bucksport as a laborer building the Maine Seaboard Paper Company. When the mill started up and went into paper production, he stayed and worked there as a machinist. After voluntarily serving in the Air Force, Bill graduated from UMaine with a degree in General Agriculture in 1949.

Mary was born in Iowa and was the Valedictorian of her high school class. She graduated from Iowa State Teacher's College with a degree in English and minors in Music, Latin, and Speech. She pursued her master's at San Diego State University and Northwestern University. She taught for three years until the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, when she joined the war effort as an aircraft communicator.

Patti Jinks attended the University of Maine as a non-traditional engineering student, enrolling in 1986. Patti began her career in the pulp and paper industry in 1984, working for CT Main, Rust International, Stone and Webster, and Kamyrr on multi-million-dollar capital expansion and paper machine rebuild projects. Patti worked on project jobsites at Champion, Great Northern Paper, Scott Paper, and Fraser Paper while simultaneously attending the University. After graduating, she worked on projects all over the globe as an Engineer Procure Construct (EPC) construction estimator for Kamyrr, at Finch Pruyn in NY and then for AECOM as their water/wastewater regional business line leader in NY. She formed her own company in 2018 and provides independent consulting services to the engineering and construction industry.

Patti says, "with Stan Marshall's assistance, I benefited immeasurably from a UMPFF scholarship, and the pulp and paper industry

will always be a huge part of the fabric of who I am. At that time, I was facing the real possibility of having to quit just a few credits shy of graduation, and the scholarship enabled me financially to remain in college and finish my degree. I've always been grateful to the Foundation for it. It is an honor now to be able to establish this scholarship in my family's name as a way to give back to others who may need help in the future, the same way that I was helped. The UMPFF is an outstanding program and resource, and my parents would be pleased to know that their long legacy of helping UMaine students is continuing."

## Chad & Jennifer Martin Scholarship Fund

**Chad Martin, '96 CHE**, started his career with Albany International in 1996 in product development for the forming division before moving into design, application, and product management. Chad was Director of Product Management – North and South America Forming with Albany International before he joined AstenJohnson in 2012. He is currently VP of Marketing for AstenJohnson's North American paper machine clothing business. He has responsibility for product line development and product management, corporate accounts,

the paper making specialist team, the tissue team, the monofilament division, and for global marketing.

Chad says, "It's exciting to be in an industry that continuous to reinvent itself. When I started in this great industry 29 years ago when I thought of paper it was newspapers, brochures, catalogs, and books that came to mind. Now it's packaging and tissue grades that drive the demand for paper goods. I can't wait to see what this industry will look like in another 30 years!"

## Scott & Kari-Jo Varney Scholarship Fund

**Scott Varney, '96 CHE**, started in the paper industry as a co-op student in 1994 with Otis Specialty Papers in Jay. After college he joined International Paper at their Androscoggin Mill in Jay. Since then, he worked for MeadWestvaco, NewPage and Twin Rivers in various manufacturing roles. After 16 years in the mill, Scott switched to the supplier side and joined BTG in 2012. In 2023 he joined Voith Paper as VP of Service.

Kari-Jo Varney graduated from the University of Maine in 1998 with a BS in Medical Technology. After graduation, she worked in several hospital

labs in Maine and New York. In 2010, Kari-Jo elected to be a stay-at-home mom with her daughter. She volunteers in her free time and enjoys gardening.

## The Larry & Cathy Lewis Scholarship Fund

**Heather DuBois, '96 CHE**, established this Fund in honor of her parents, Larry & Cathy Lewis. They dedicated their lives to children and education; their own, their grandchildren, and countless others. Together, Larry and Cathy spent over 90 years in education, Larry as a Superintendent and Cathy as a teacher then Principal. They loved and cared about kids!

They also were passionate about Maine and all that it offers : hunting, fishing, and our wonderful paper industry that has enhanced the lives of so many. They couldn't have been prouder than when Heather decided to attend UMaine to earn her degree in Chemical Engineering and was supported by the Pulp & Paper Foundation.

Heather went to work for Nalco Water, An Ecolab Company as a co-op then full-time upon graduation in 1996. She has enjoyed a fulfilling career in technical sales, marketing, and increasing global leadership roles in multiple divisions across Ecolab.

Though Larry passed away in 2005, he leaves a strong legacy. Heather and her parents are forever grateful for the financial support, networking opportunities, lifelong friendships, and career that were enabled by the Foundation. Heather is pleased to establish this scholarship fund to help minimize the financial burden to future engineering students as they pursue their education.

**At right:** The Martin, Varney, and Lewis families are presented their plaques.



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

As sad as we are to see you go, we are even more proud of everything you accomplished here—and excited to see everything you will accomplish as you move forward. Your futures as the next great leaders in the pulp and paper industry are bright, and we can't wait to follow along on your journeys. Remember: No matter where your paths take you, you'll always be a part of the UMPPF family.



**Matthew Albert, CHE, Bradford**

**Makenzie Alley, CHE, Frankfort**

**William Brown, MEE, West Enfield**

**Luke Buck, MEE, Sidney**

**Kylie Carrier, CIE, Buckfield**

**Jacob Cook, MET, Perry**

**Mya Eno, MEE, Fort Kent**

**Nikolai Krebs, CHE, Turner**

**Jake Lajoie, CHE, Madawaska**

**Gavyn Leighton, MEE, Palmyra**

**Ian MacKinnon, MEE, Presque Isle**

**Kyle Marino, CHE, Pawcatuck, CT**

**Madison McCarthy, CHE, Cape Elizabeth**

**Conner Michaud, MEE, Presque Isle**

**Nathan Newgard, MEE, Winslow**

**Madeline Noble, CIE, Lincoln**

**Justin Pelletier, CHE, Madawaska**

**Nicholas Rioux, MEE, Auburn, NH**

**Sydney Roy, CHE, Lewiston**

**Leo Rubin, CHE, Norwich, CT**

**Allison Thompson, CHE,  
Pflugerville, TX/Lancaster, NH**

**Jacob Thornton, CHE, Westbrook**

**Jackson Varley, FOR, Frederick, MD**

**Allison Vogel, CHE, Bridgton**

# Alumni News + Announcements

## 1980-1999

**Mark Paradis, '92 MET**, has been promoted to Customer Technical Services Director – NA with Fiberlean Technologies in Old Town, ME.

**Jeff Barker, '93 EET**, has been promoted to Sales Manager at Honeywell in Wells, ME.

**Blue Keim, '94 CHE**, is now Managing Director, Somerset Mill, Sappi North America.

**John Chretien, '97 CHE**, is now Sales and Marketing Development Manager at Aurorium in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.

## 2000-2009

**Danielle Thibodeau, '05 CHE**, is now Vice President of Operations at Twin Rivers in Madawaska, ME.

## 2010-2019

**Mathew Pagurko, '11 BLE**, has been promoted to District Representative I with Nalco Water, an Ecolab Company in Queensbury, NY.

**Nolan Southard, '11 MEE**, is now Regional Sales Account Manager for dataPARC.

**Jimmy Melcher, '12 CHE**, is now NA Equipment Team Manager - Industrial Water with Solenis in Richmond, VA.

**Aaron Prusaitis, '13 MEE**, is now Project Manager 2 at Woodard and Curran in Portland, ME.

**Richard Qualey, '13 CHE, '22 JD**, is now Associate Attorney at Bernstein Shur in Portland, ME.

**Jesse Stephens, '13 CHE**, is now Continuous Improvement Manager at St Croix Tissue in Baileyville, ME.

**Ben Conner, '14 CHE**, has been promoted to Manager, Facilities and Engineering at Sappi North America in Westbrook, ME.

**Nick Hart, '14 CHE**, is now Product Line Manager at Kemira in Atlanta, GA.

**Blake Bourque, '15 COE**, is now Process Engineer at Amazon Fulfillment Technologies and Robotics in Westborough, MA.

**Tom McOscar, '15 CHE and CHY, '17 MS CHY**, is now Customer Success Manager with HighByte in Portland, ME.

**Sean Murphy, '17 MEE**, has been promoted to Staff Engineer at Packaging Corporation of America in Austin, TX.

**Travis Stacey, '17 CHE**, has been promoted to Pulp Manufacturing Leader at Georgia-Pacific in Cantonment, FL.

**Ryan Erskine, '18 CHE**, is now Account Manager at Millenium Power Services in Lewiston, ME.

**Ashley Pezanowski, '19 EE**, has been promoted to PS&D Area Maintenance Manager with Sylvamo in Ticonderoga, NY.

**Aaron Soucy, '19 CHE**, is now Superintendent of PM7 at Twin Rivers Paper in Madawaska, ME.

## 2020+

**Giorgia Calcagno, '20 CHE**, has been promoted to Senior Operations Planner with Sappi North America in Skowhegan, ME.

**Alyssa Murphy, '20 CHE**, is now Logistics Engineer II at Sappi North America in Skowhegan, ME.

**Emma White, '21 CHE**, is now Process Data Consultant with Braincube.

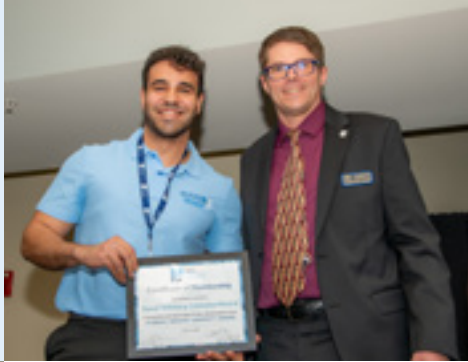
**McKenna Baker, '22 CHE**, is now Student Recruitment Specialist at UMaine Pulp and Paper Foundation.

**Jon Hicks, '23 CHE**, has been promoted to Northeast Sales Representative with Dubois Chemicals in CT.

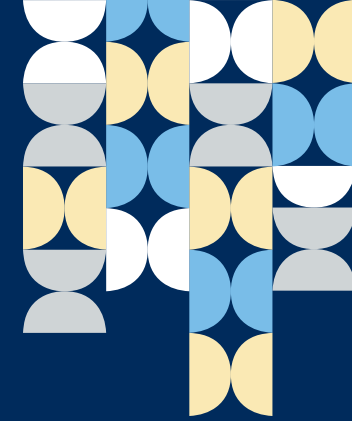
**Connor Robertson, '23 CIE**, has been promoted to Integrated Project Manager/Foreman at Wright-Ryan Construction in Portland, ME.



**We love staying in touch with our UMPPF alumni.** Have you started a new position? Received a promotion? Celebrated a life milestone? Send your announcements our way, and we'll share your good news with the rest of the UMPPF family! [info@UMainePPF.org](mailto:info@UMainePPF.org)



**VOITH**



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# Welcome, New Company Members

Membership Committee Chair **Scott Varney** introduced four new companies at Paper Days 2025: Planet Paramount Product, Rand-Whitney Containerboard, Whitfield Russell Associates, and Voith. Pictured are Claudia Lowd, CTO, Paramount Planet Product; Omar Aly, Process Engineer, Rand-Whitney Containerboard; Rob Crossman, President, Products and Services NA, Voith

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## Whitfield Russell Associates

**UMainePPF.org**





**UMaine Pulp+Paper Foundation**  
5737 Jenness Hall, Orono, ME 04469  
**UMainePPF.org**

**Connections, inspiration** and **support**. Find out what staff, students, and our pulp and paper associates are up to by following our exciting journey on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram!

 +   @UMPPF



**Clockwise:** Early spring in the western Maine mountains; Carrie tours the Process Development Center in Jenness Hall with students; South Portland Middle School STEM event props in the classroom